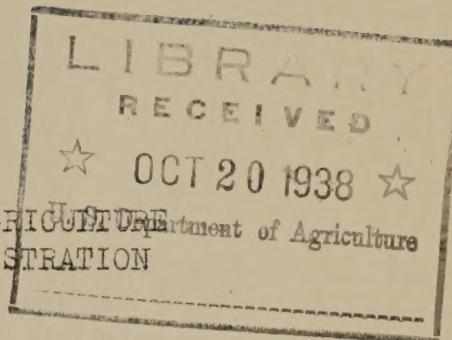


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES WHEAT IMPORTS SINCE THE 1927-28 MARKETING YEAR

As compared with the total amount of wheat we produce in the United States, the total amount of wheat we import into this country amounts to very little -- so little, in fact, that it is hardly worth noticing. (See Tables 1 and 2 on the last two pages herein.)

The little wheat which we do import is brought in for the following purposes:

(1). For milling in bond for export. (See Columns 4 and 5 of Tables 1 and 2.) This wheat is brought into this country for milling in United States mills, for grinding into flour for export to foreign countries. Every bushel of this wheat is handled in this country in bonded warehouses, which are under strict supervision of the Federal Government, which guarantees that the imported wheat will be exported and not enter into competition in the United States market with wheat produced in this country. The milling of the imported wheat, under bond, provides wages for United States workers which they would not otherwise get.

(2). For livestock feed, when drought or some other cause cuts down our supplies of feed grains to such a low point that we do not have enough grain for feed. (See Column 2 of Tables 1 and 2.) The wheat we bring in for this purpose is classed as unfit for human consumption, but every bushel of it pays the tariff of 10 percent ad valorem (which means on the basis of money value);

(3). For human consumption in the United States. (See Column 1 of Tables 1 and 2.) Every bushel of the few bushels used for this purpose pays the full tariff of 42 cents required by our tariff laws.

In normal times, nearly all of the wheat coming into this country, comes in for milling under bond and then shipment out of the United States.

Tables 1 and 2 show the total amount of wheat and flour imported into this country, and also a breakdown showing just how much of this imported wheat was for consumption in this country and just how much was imported for milling in bond and export.

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The significance of the figures in these tables is that, although the total amount of wheat and flour imported into the United States in the 5 crop years 1933-1937 amounted to 134,751,000 bushels, only 62,510,000 bushels were imported for human consumption.

This period was one in which United States wheat production suffered severely from the cumulative effects of three very bad droughts in 1933, 1934, and 1936, and from the rust epidemic in 1935.

The United States has, in fact, been a NET importer of milling wheat in only four years since the Constitution was signed -- namely, the years 1837, 1934, 1935, and 1936; in other words, these four years are the only years in which we have imported more wheat than we exported.

The years 1928-1932 can be regarded as more nearly representing the normal wheat import situation. Due note must be taken of the fact that the period 1933-1937 included three very bad drought years. For this reason Table 1, on "Annual Imports", is divided into two periods, to make the comparison clear.

For the 5 crop years 1928-1932 the amount of milling wheat and flour imported into this country, for human consumption in the United States, totaled only 207,000 bushels, or an average of only about 41,000 bushels per year.

Most of the wheat and flour imported into the United States in the 1937-38 crop year, for domestic consumption, was imported in July and August of 1937, before the 1937 crop of wheat became generally available for milling purposes.

In recent months (See Table 2) practically NO wheat has been imported, either for human or livestock consumption. It should be borne in mind that wheat is imported by this country only when United States wheat prices are high in comparison with foreign prices, and that the amount of imported wheat milled in bond in this country is larger when United States prices increase in relation to Canadian prices.

Under the ever-normal-granary plan, the shortages in the bad years can be met from the reserves accumulated under the crop-insurance, wheat-loan, and acreage-allotment features of the national farm program. Thus, wheat supplies can be carried over from years of plenty into years of shortage, and, as time goes on, there will be little or no need for this country to import any wheat, even in drought years.

TABLE I

ANNUAL IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR INTO THE UNITED STATES IN THE
CROP YEARS 1928-29 to 1937-38 INCLUSIVE

(Each unit in the figures below is a thousand bushels)

Crop Year	Wheat and Flour Imported for Domestic Use			Wheat Imported for Milling in terms of wheat Bond and Export	Flour imported duty-free for export
	Wheat		Flour, in terms of wheat		
	Human Consumption	Feed	(3)		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1928-29	79.	None	12.	22,481.	None
1929-30	45.	None	8.	12,903.	None
1930-31	41.	307.	6.	19,013.	None
1931-32	6.	None	1.	12,879.	None
1932-33	6.	1.	3.	9,372.	None
Total	177.	308.	30.	76,648.	None
Average	35.	62.	6.	15,330.	None
1933-34	143.	6.	4.	11,341.	None
1934-35	5,905.	8,146.	18.	11,064.	None
1935-36	25,289.	9,205.	123.	11,979.	43.
1936-37	30,205.	4,057.	193.	13,469.	None
1937-38	598.	4.	32.	2,819.	108.
Total	62,140.	21,418.	370.	50,672.	151.
Average	12,428.	4,284.	74.	10,135.	30.

NOTE. -- The figures in the above table were compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.

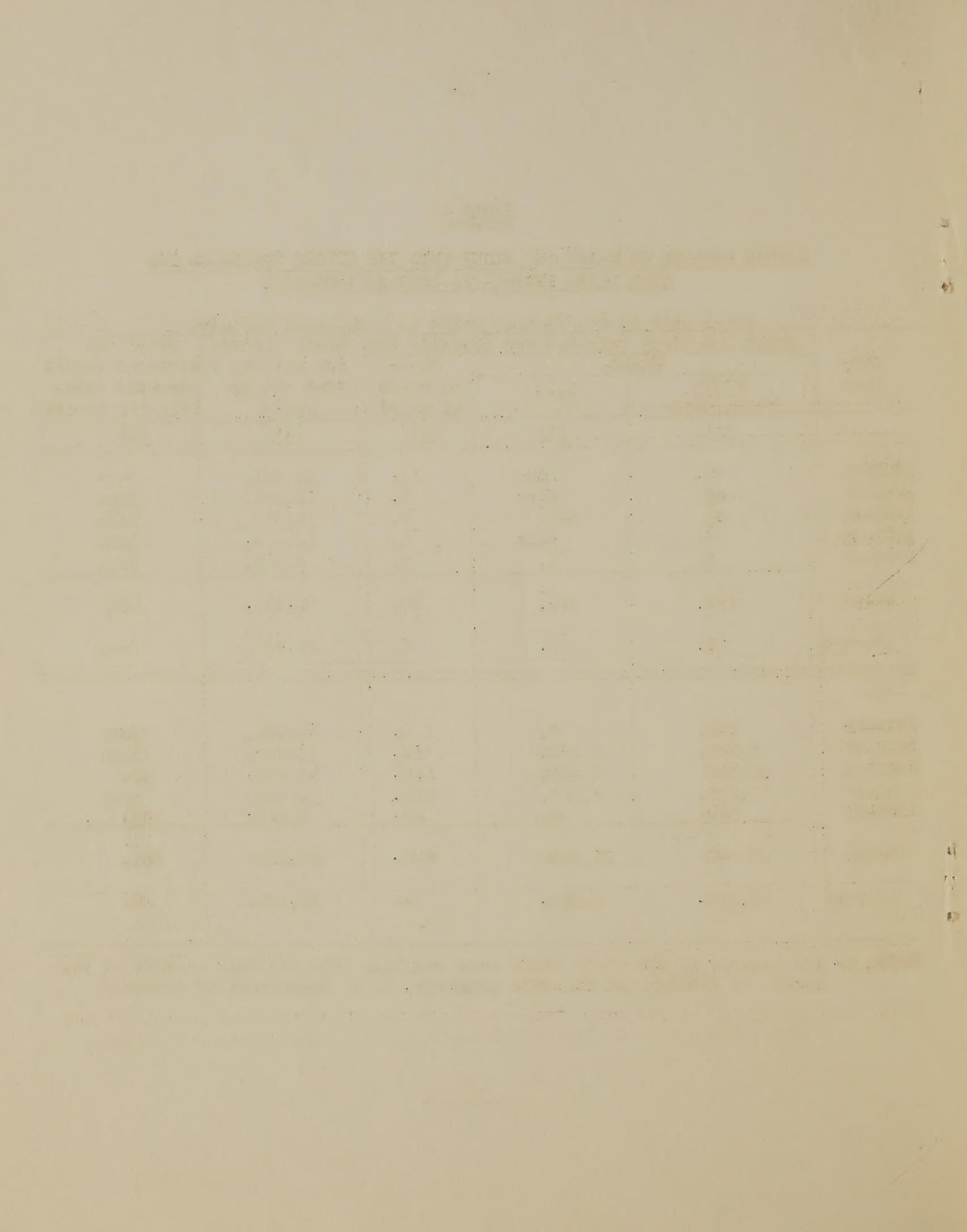


TABLE 2

MONTHLY IMPORTS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR INTO THE UNITED STATES IN
THE LAST CROP YEAR (1937-38)

(The figures below are in terms of thousands of bushels unless otherwise stated)

Month	Wheat and Flour Imported for Domestic Use		Wheat Imported for Milling in terms of wheat	Flour (in terms of wheat) Bond and Ex- port	Flour (in terms of wheat) imported duty- free for export
	Wheat Human Consumption	Feed			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<u>1937</u>					
July	490.	3.	25.	770.	None
August	102.	None	1.	766.	None
September	1.	None	(*)	452.	None
October	(*)	1.	1.	348.	None
November	(*)	None	1.	183.	None
December	(*)	None	1.	78.	14.
<u>1938</u>					
January	4.	None	1.	50.	30.
February	(*)	None	(*)	25.	19.
March	(*)	None	1.	8.	None
April	1.	None	1.	7.	None
May	Only 8 bushels	None	(*)	46.	14.
June	None	None	(*)	86.	31.
TOTAL	598.	4.	32.	2,819.	108.

(*) Less than 500 bushels.

NOTE. -- The figures in the above table were compiled from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, U. S. Department of Commerce.

